

Torrance, California
May 3, 1955

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a regular meeting in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Torrance, California, on May 3, 1955, at 5:30 p.m., Mayor Isen presiding.

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Hallenger were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Schwab and Isen. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Black led the salute to our Flag.

Rev. Stanton opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Drale moved the minutes of the meeting held April 26, 1955 be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

FOODS COMPANY MATTER

Mayor Isen inquired if there was anyone present who could give a report on the status of the Foods Company matter.

MR. BLACK: Following the last Council meeting we held a meeting in the Engineer's office until approximately 10:30 p.m. The property owners in the tract adjacent to the store held a meeting during the week with approximately 30 property owners in attendance. Last night the committee met with Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Esse and again discussed the problems involved.

We gave everything as much consideration as was feasible, there were a number of ideas brought up and discussed. One of the things we had to contend with was the load restriction placed on the streets, 2½ tons; we asked what size trucks were involved and find that their wholesalers more than likely use the truck-trailer arrangement, 10 ton, and consequently would not be allowed to operate on Atkinson behind the store. We asked about the smaller trucks and it seems that these two driveways they had put in there are of a capacity to permit approximately three of the smaller type delivery trucks, such as bread trucks, milk trucks, etc., to back up to the loading platform, which brings up the point as to how they would back in which means they have to pull out into the street and back into the drive against the loading platform, which we do not consider being a very wise idea. We considered at one time closing one of the driveways and circulating trucks into the drive and through behind the buildings and out onto the parking lot but again the larger trucks would not be permitted to use Atkinson and consequently only the smaller trucks would be able to use that drive.

The continuous fence was on the original plan, as I recollect, and at that time must have been considered feasible for operations of deliveries, etc. At the northern end of the drive between the building and the fence Edison Company has installed two poles, one of which obstructs the driveway. According to Mr. Schwartz he has already contacted Edison Company and they can move the poles for \$1,000. I didn't check that point myself.

There are 14 feet between the building and the fence and a 3 foot loading platform, which leaves 11 feet between the loading platforms and the fence which would permit any size truck to ingress or egress through the alley-way and the fence. Mr. Schwartz made mention last night I believe the name was Gish, who live on 175th, as being a party he had contacted as to whether they were agreeable to having trucks, etc. on the street: he said they were agreeable. I find out this particular party are not the property owners they are rentals and the property owner is a service man and could not be contacted for his opinion.

We discussed with Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Esse various possibilities and I believe that, representing the people in the neighborhood, that I can say that we wish to recommend that the original Variance as approved by the Planning Commission and by the City Council be carried out with no changes.

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MR. SCHWARTZ: I think the story is fairly well known, we have no defense in the matter except that we feel we made an honest mistake. We are not in the habit of going into a community and breaking the laws of the community, it is not a very good procedure to follow and it is not one that any citizen in his right mind follows. If this is the will of the people I guess we are governed by their will.

We have one matter I would like to call to the attention of the people and the Council--at the time we spoke to Mr. Powell we showed him there were two added buildings that had been granted Variances on, coming in next to our building. In the original inception of the zoning those buildings were in the distant future and we set out driveways as shown on the original plan. Since then we have gone ahead to develop these two 70 foot pieces which we are planning to leave vacant, unpaved, we are going to put a coat of tar and some of this rock and leave it unpaved because we are in the process of drawing leases. I have this Cornet lease here which I believe I showed to some of the neighbors last week. In that process and on this plan we move those driveways, in order not to be behind the incoming stores, out about 30 or 40 feet, enough to clear the incoming added development. I was wondering if that was of any interest to push back with the---

MAYOR ISEN: I think you should clear that with the Building Department as no one here could pass on that at all.

MR. SCHWARTZ: It would have to clear zoning and the City Council?

MAYOR ISEN: It wouldn't start here.

MR. SCHWARTZ: The thing is that we are ready to pave right now, we are ready to complete the market within a week or ten days.

MAYOR ISEN: Don't let anything that I say here make you think that you have any permission to do that.

MR. SCHWARTZ: No, I'm asking for clearance.

MAYOR ISEN: We can't give you clearance and I can't even say whether you will get clearance on it, we are back to the original Variance. I want to say further, for your information and for the information of the public interested in this matter, that last week we postponed for 30 days the matter of rezoning that particular area for business. I believe it will be the intention to start all over with that and this particular area will just have to have a Variance and nothing further because of the keen public interest in that particular matter. Whatever you do there will be because you had a Variance. The chair will instruct the Clerk to make a transcript of these particular proceedings and turn it over at once to Mr. Russell to see that the matter is carried out as per the original Variance granted. As there were no objections, Mayor Isen ordered the transcript of these proceedings.

COUNCILMAN DRALE: I think the matter should be moved as a matter of record.

MR. STEVENS: On the request that Mr. Schwartz has made to move the driveways --it is a most logical thing. The original store was laid out and the driveways were to come in on both sides and they tentatively outlined two other buildings, now he has moved the two driveways out to permit the buildings which he is now going to build and in order to enter that parking lot, instead of running into the building he has moved it out here, which is the logical thing to do.

MAYOR ISEN: What would the proper procedure be then?

MR. STEVENS: I think the Building Department would clear that, Mr. Russell is familiar with it. It is the only place to put the driveway.

MAYOR ISEN: Ladies and gentlemen, you have heard Mr. Stevens. That matter will be referred to Mr. Russell. I hope there will not be any objections, if there are, please get in touch with Mr. Russell right away, and I imagine that portion of the matter will be back with us next week. Is that correct Mr. Stevens?

MR. STEVENS: Yes.

MR. BLACK: I want to point out that on the original map these buildings were shown temporarily and in the Variance I believe you will find it stipulates that if the buildings are put in, that the fence will be continued 25 feet on either side, on the ends, beyond the additions that is, which would automatically tend to move the driveways. I don't believe it was specified in the Variance but if you extended the fence you would more or less have to move the driveways.

MAYOR ISEN: You mean you would have no objection to that.

MR. BLACK: No, I do not believe so.

COUNCILMAN DRALE: There is one thing I want to get clear, the original Variance called for a three foot sidewalk with a two foot planting area. It seems to me that now that this is going to be in the rear of the wall I think you will get an unsanitary condition there, I don't think anyone will keep it clean. I was wondering if we couldn't reduce the sidewalk down to an over-all four foot pavement, eliminating the planting area, so it would never be unattractive to the people living on the other side of the street. It is just a suggestion.

COUNCILMAN SCHWAB: I concur with Mr. Drale.

MAYOR ISEN: Is that alright with the interested parties?

NORMAN BRUFFY: Is it possible we can decide upon this thing after the meeting?

COUNCILMAN DRALE: It will give you an additional foot between the wall and the building.

MR. SCHWARTZ: One thing we asked for yesterday and I was turned down by the group, and I thought rather unfairly, but as I say we don't seem to have too much to say, we made a mistake, now we are going to pay for it, however, we have the fence partly up now, there is two feet beside the fence and then the sidewalk and that was done according to the plans so you know that I wasn't just making this up. We asked the people in the area if there would be any great objection to leaving the fence in 'as is', which is within two feet of the curb and continuing it and putting it in solid according to the Variance except that instead of being the five feet it would be two feet and still allow a three foot walk. This was accepted originally by the Council. According to the Variance the only walk you are going to get anyway is a three foot walk, with a 2 foot planting area. I would like to request again, before the Council, to leave the wall within the two feet of the curbing and continue it along and make it a solid fence, I can't see where there would be any great harm done either way.

MAYOR ISEN: Is that on City property?

MR. STEVENS: That is within the street right-of-way.

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MR. SCHWARTZ: It was so understood and we agreed that if at any time the City wanted to come along and ask that the fence be taken down we would have no objections. We would be taking the risk.

MAYOR ISEN: I think the people have already given their answer, there is no need to go into that. I think the only question is whether you want to pave it all the way or plant that area.

COUNCILMAN DRALE: Wouldn't the additional foot help you?

MR. SCHWARTZ: It would help, we would appreciate the extra foot, or as much as we could get.

COUNCILMAN DRALE: Well, 2 feet is not enough, if you had cars parked along there, if you opened a car door and you had pedestrians walking along there, I think 4 feet would give you an ample sidewalk there and have it fully paved instead of a planting area along the curb line.

MR. SCHWARTZ: That would be fine. I would like to bring out one point that perhaps the people are cognizant of and perhaps they are not, the back street of Atkinson does not contain a sidewalk all the way through.

MAYOR ISEN: Let's get a sidewalk on your property as agreed upon.

MR. SCHWARTZ: That's what I'm saying, the sidewalk extends 10 feet to either side of the fence, according to the plans and then stops. I want that understood, in fact I would like to go through this whole Variance so I know just what to tell our people. I don't want these objections raised when we do not put in a whole sidewalk.

MAYOR ISEN: You check with Mr. Russell, he will see that you comply with the original Variance. The people will have to take the Variance as it was originally granted.

COUNCILMAN DRALE: If these people are willing to accept the 4 foot sidewalk with a solid wall, if they want to hold a meeting, we will make the motion subject to that. I think the Legal Department will have to draw up the necessary easement because this wall is on City property. If it is agreeable with the Legal Department and with these people--

NORMAN BRUFFY: You mean instead of setting the wall back 5 feet, they would set it back 4 feet--do you want an answer now?

COUNCILMAN DRALE: I thought someone suggested that. We can go right ahead with the original Variance. I thought maybe we could help Mr. Schwartz out by giving him an additional foot between the wall and the market-way.

Mr. Bruffy and the other property owners present held a short discussion and decided as follows:

NORMAN BRUFFY: We have decided he should comply with the Variance, we are not asking anything else.

Councilman Drale moved the recommendation of Mr. Black and his committee and the original recommendation of the Planning Commission be concurred with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Request of the Torrance Democrats, Inc. to hold a welcome home dinner to honor the homecoming of Congressman Cecil R. King, the tentative date of October 15, 1955, and that the usual fees for the use of the Civic Auditorium be waived for this event.

Councilman Drale moved the request be granted and arrangements made with the Recreation Department. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

Mayor Isen requested Deputy City Clerk Hallanger to answer the letter and advise them they must clear this request with the Recreation Department for the date.

Notice of hearing regarding the application of Pacific Greyhound Lines, for authority to increase certain fares for service between Long Beach, Santa Monica and intermediate points.

Councilman Drale moved the City Council protest this increase in fares. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

Mayor Isen directed City Attorney Hall to write the letter of protest on behalf of the City.

Communication from Mrs. Kathleen Taylor, 4833 Moresby Drive, regarding the practice of salvaging from the City Dump and inquiring if this is legal.

City Manager Stevens reported that at the present time, on a trial basis, we are having the Valley Maintenance Service salvage everything that they can take. Every cubic yard that they take out we save that much hole. On this tentative basis they pay the City \$100 per month. They haul two or three truck loads out a day and they do have the privilege of salvaging. Mr. Stevens said they are rendering the City a service by keeping this stuff out of our dump.

Councilman Schwab moved the communication be filed and the information forwarded to Mrs. Taylor. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

Mayor Isen requested City Attorney Hall to write the letter.

Request of Torrance Elementary School Parent Teacher Association for an additional stop sign at Arlington Avenue and 220th Street.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger advised this was the second request received from this association regarding this sign and that the original request had been referred to the Traffic Commission.

Councilman Benstead moved this request be again referred to the Traffic Commission for study and recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

Communication from the El Nido Civic Association advocating annexation of their area to the City of Torrance.

City Manager Stevens stated this should be referred to the Planning Commission for study. At one time they did make a recommendation but it should be referred to them for another study and recommendation.

Councilman Drale so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

Communication from the Civil Service Board recommending the following new classifications be adopted:

Office Manager (Water System)
Recreation Attendant
Supervisor of Men's and Boys' Activities

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation and that the City Attorney be authorized to prepare the necessary Resolutions. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously

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by roll call vote.

(a) Communication from the Walteria Civic Organization requesting added police protection in Walteria.

(b) Communication from the Pacific Hills Home Owners, Inc. requesting added police protection in Walteria and Pacific Hills areas.

Councilman Benstead moved these communications be referred to the Chief of Police for his study and recommendation at the next Council meeting. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections so ordered by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Drale stated it has been the policy throughout the State that we should have one police officer for every 1,000 residents and these are the standards by which most communities are governed. Councilman Drale suggested we bring our police force up to these standards and as this was budget time this would be the proper time to consider this and suggested the Chief of Police consider this in his report.

Communication from City Manager Stevens advising that Mr. Hoedemaker has requested that a letter be written to him, stating that in case his option for the property on the Torrance Municipal Airport is exercised the \$1,000 deposited will be applied to the rent. It is understood that if the option is not exercised the \$1,000 deposit will be retained by the City.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the request, subject to the approval of the Legal Department. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. The following persons were employed as Park Maintenance Men, in a temporary capacity pending a civil service examination, at the first salary step:

- (a) John M. Dugas-----Effective April 19, 1955
- (b) Robert F. Folts-----Effective April 18, 1955
- (c) Joseph C. Phoenix-----Effective April 18, 1955
- (d) Edward C. Loney-----Effective April 26, 1955
- (e) Bill Reeves-----Effective April 26, 1955

Mayor Isen moved to concur with the recommendations of City Manager Stevens, Item 1, a, b, c, d, and e under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. Lester R. Riehman was employed as a temporary Bus Operator during vacation period, effective April 16, 1955, at the first salary step. Not from Eligible List, as no one on the List would accept temporary appointment.
3. Betty F. Ingram was promoted to Accounting Machine Operator, effective April 16, 1955, at the first salary step. Selected from Eligible List.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, Item 2, under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with Item 3, under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Robert R. Lucas was appointed to serve his probationary period as Battalion Chief, effective May 1, 1955.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, item 4, under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. That the Fire Department be authorized to send a delegate to the Fire Service Instructors' Course, conducted by the California State Department of Education at Fresno May 23 through May 27, and that \$75.00 be appropriated to pay the expenses of the delegate.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, item 5, under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 6:15 P.M., Mayor Isen declared a recess. The meeting reconvened at 6:25 P. M.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RECREATION COMMISSION:

1. Recommendation of the Commission that an employee of the custodial department or other appointed department of the City of Torrance should be on duty whenever permits have been issued for the use of the Auditorium and shall at all times have the right to enter and remain in the room where the meeting or other activities are taking place. The services of a City personnel to be present in the Civic Auditorium during programs should be at the expense of the permittee. Reimbursement to the City shall be at the prescribed rate specified in the City Salary Ordinance, plus retirement and workmen's compensation, and shall be paid with the permit fees, if any. Also, that all duties of booking, and collecting fees be removed from the Recreation Department inasmuch as it is felt that the Recreation Department derives no revenue from the rental fees of the Auditorium and it is a burden and a drain on the Department from the standpoint of finances and manpower.

After a short discussion Councilman Drale moved this communication be referred to City Manager Stevens for study and recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

2. Recommendation of the Commission that Ordinance No. 614 be amended to include the Director of Recreation as an ex-officio member of the Recreation Commission.

Councilman Benstead moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

3. Communication from the Recreation Commission regarding the pitch and putt golf course proposed for development at Seaside Park and recommending that the project as originally planned be developed.

Councilman Drale stated that inasmuch as the majority of the members of the Council were present at the time the recreation issues were put on the ballot for the public to vote on and as this was one of the matters scheduled at the time, he thought it would be wrong to differ in the original plans presented to the public.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Recreation Commission regarding the pitch and putt golf course. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mrs. Alfred Brown, 22706 Draille Drive, wondered if the Recreation Commission would feel they should have this course in a residential zone if it was proposed by a citizen rather than by the Commission. Councilman Benstead stated it was the recommendation of the Recreation Commission.

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4. Communication from the Recreation Commission recommending that the architect be instructed to proceed with the plans and specifications and adhere to cost estimate previously established.

Councilman Drale inquired what the object of this was, he thought that was what was planned.

City Manager Stevens stated he thought that what they had in mind was that the original budgets would be adhered to. He stated he knew it was the intention of the Recreation Commission to request a meeting with the Council to discuss this matter.

Mayor Isen ordered the communication filed until such a meeting.

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

1. Communication from City Engineer Bishop recommending that Bond No. 01-40277 (sewer along Via Monte D'Oro, from Calle Mayor to Via Alameda) be released; subdivider: Don Ja Ran Construction Company, and advising that the sanitary sewer has been completed to the satisfaction of the Engineering Department.

Councilman Blount complained of the condition that some of the sewer contractors left the streets and he did not believe these bonds should be released until they were taken care of.

City Manager Stevens stated that if that is the condition of the street it is our fault and not the fault of the subdivider as one of the agreements, in order to get the subdivider to run that long line up Monte D'Oro at no cost to the district, was that the City would do the resurfacing. Mr. Stevens said he would make a note of this and have it checked as it was in the agreement.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur with the recommendation of City Engineer Bishop in releasing the bond. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. Recommendation of City Engineer Bishop that Bond No. 216516, covering subdivision improvements in Tract No. 19306, be released, and advising that trees have been planted in all parkways, street signs are in, bench mark data and centerline ties have been received and subdivision improvements have been accepted.

Councilman Blount moved that the bond be released. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount stated that the Council had had another discussion about a sewer contractor across the street about the back-filling. He inquired when the work of back-filling these streets in Hollywood Riviera ^{would} be started. He stated the streets were filthy. He requested City Manager Stevens to have someone from the Engineering Department make a report to the Council at the next meeting regarding this matter.

3. Communication from City Engineer Bishop submitting a 54 foot street easement from 231st Street west of Eshelman Avenue, southerly toward 233rd Street, from Clausen Pearson Company; also attached was Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to accept the easement and a sketch showing the area.

Councilman Drale inquired if this should not come from the Planning Commission.

Mayor Isen suggested it be referred to the City Attorney for a recommendation.

Mr. George Powell advised the division of lot was allowed by the Planning Commission subject to the approval of street lay-out by Mr. Bishop and subject to the granting of the easement. He suggested the Planning Commission act on this matter tomorrow night and it would be ready to be referred to Mr. Hall on Thursday so it could come before the City Council at the next meeting.

Mayor Isen requested City Attorney Hall to clarify this for the meeting next week.

4. Communication from City Engineer Bishop forwarding request of Barclay Engineering Company that they be allowed to permit sewers in proposed Tract No. 21293 (in the City of Redondo Beach), northerly of 190th Street, to connect to our sewers in Tract No. 19102. Mr. Bishop reported favorably on this request, subject to certain restrictions set forth in his letter of April 28, and stated he felt that sewerage 15 or 16 homes would not tax the capacity of our sewer.

Communication from Barclay Engineering Company, dated April 1, requesting permission to make sewer connections on 15 or 16 lots in their tract No. 21293 which lies within the boundaries of the City of Redondo Beach.

Councilman Drale suggested we make everybody in the City of Torrance form a sewer assessment who does not have sewers and he did not think it would be proper to let people outside of the City hook onto our sewers.

Councilman Drale moved the request be denied. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount.

City Manager Stevens stated this was a policy matter, that we have sections of Torrance that sewer into the County and we have sections of the City that sewer into Redondo Beach and a portion of Redondo sewers into Torrance, it has been a reciprocal deal.

Mr. Cheryl Cursy of Barclay Engineering Company said he was here tonight to request that the lots be increased from the 15 or 16 to 35, as the designs had not been completed at the time the request was made. He said they would be forced to go to septic tanks which was not a very good idea in that area. He stated there were numerous areas, even the County of Los Angeles and the County of Orange have exchanged sewer districts. He requested the Council to approve the 35 lots instead of the 16 originally asked.

After a lengthy discussion regarding sewers Councilman Drale again moved the request be denied. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount.

Mayor Isen moved the matter be tabled until the Council hears from Mr. Bishop regarding the 35 lots being serviced. Motion died for lack of a second.

Councilman Drale's motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

5. Communication from Asst. to City Engineer Patrick forwarding a resolution to correct Resolution No. 2714.

Mayor Isen ordered the communication filed.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2723

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2714.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2723. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

6. Communication from Asst. to City Engineer Patrick submitting request from Southern California Gas Company for a right of way easement from the City of Torrance along the northerly side of 242nd Street easterly of Ocean Avenue; also resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute said easement, and a sketch showing the location of the proposed easement.

Mayor Isen ordered the communications filed as a matter of record.

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Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2724

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN GRANT OF RIGHT OF WAY FROM THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2724. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

7. Communication from Asst. to City Engineer Patrick submitting a resolution of intention to vacate walkway in Tract 18416 and setting the date of hearing for May 24, 1955.

Mayor Isen ordered the communication filed as a matter of record.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2725

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A CERTAIN WALKWAY IN TRACT 18416, IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, FIXING A TIME WHEN THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET TO TAKE FINAL ACTION THEREON, AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Councilman Schwab moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Schwab moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2725. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

8. Communication from Asst. to City Engineer Patrick submitting resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a contract with Warren Southwest Inc. for the improvement of a portion of Torrance Blvd, from Crenshaw Blvd. to Madrona Avenue, and a portion of Elm Avenue from Torrance Blvd. to Maricopa Street.

Mayor Isen ordered the communication filed.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2726

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND WARREN SOUTHWEST, INC.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2726. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

REPORTS:

1. Report from George Powell regarding hog farms.

Mr. Powell stated he had made a written report to Mr. Stevens and the communications from Mr. Green were sufficient in themselves. He stated he had talked with Francis Foley and was assured he would be out, vacated and away from there before October 1956. Mr. Foley stated he did not intend to contest it. Mr. Powell reported he had also talked with Mr. Kasarian and he had stated that it looked like October 1956 was the 'end of the line'.

City Attorney Hall said he could see no reason to file on it. It was his opinion we would 'ride or fall' on our ordinance. That would be his recommendation, unless there is a flagrant case of abuse.

2. Report from George Powell regarding the construction at the southwest corner of Sepulveda and Crenshaw.

Mr. Powell reported he had taken Mr. Russell and Mr. West to the site of the construction and measured from the center of the street and found a corner of the sign was in violation, in fact it was actually on City property. The structure was tagged to stop any future building. The following afternoon the contractor agreed all work would stop and the structure would be moved. The company will make application to the Planning Commission for a proper place and proceed accordingly.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2727

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TO ORDER THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES ON CERTAIN
PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE FOR
PUBLIC USE.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2727. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2728

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE ENDORSING THE SCHOOL BOND PROPOSITION
TO BE PRESENTED TO THE VOTERS AT THE ELECTION
TO BE HELD ON JUNE 7, 1955.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2728. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2729

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY A CERTAIN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY TO BUY AND SELL REAL PROPERTY AND A GRANT OF EASEMENT ATTACHED THERETO AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY CERTAIN ROAD EASEMENTS AND A SEWER EASEMENT FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2729. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2730

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING RESOLUTION NOS. 2698 AND 2699.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2730. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2731

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LEASE WITH STORE PROPERTIES, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, AND MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS OF FACT.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2731. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSTAINED FROM VOTING: COUNCILMEN: Isen.

RESOLUTION NO. 2732

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THAT CERTAIN LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 23, 1955, RECEIVED FROM STORE PROPERTIES, INC.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2732. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSTAINED FROM VOTING: COUNCILMEN: Isen.

City Attorney Hall handed the original and three copies each of the lease and letter referred to, to Deputy City Clerk Hallanger.

ORDINANCE NO. 743

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE NO. 624 TO PROVIDE THAT LICENSE FEES PAYABLE, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE STATED IN ORDINANCE NO. 624, SHALL BE PAID ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AND THAT REFUNDS OF LICENSES PAID SHALL ONLY BE MADE WHERE MONEY IS PAID TO SECURE A LICENSE OR PERMIT NOT REQUIRED OR WHERE AN AMOUNT IS PAID IN EXCESS OF THE CORRECT LICENSE FEE.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 743 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens stated he had submitted three reports to the Council for study. He realized they will require some thought and study so he was presenting them tonight and the Council could act on them at the next meeting. The matters referred to were: (1) Communication from the South Bay Humane Society, (2) Traffic control matters, and (3) Survey of trash receptacles in the business district.

City Manager Stevens said he had only one other matter and that was regarding a letter he had received from the Mack Truck Company. He stated he would have the letter reproduced for each member of the Council for study. The letter stated that effective May 10th there will be a price increase, however, Mr. Stevens said if the Council plans, as suggested by Councilman Drale, to bring the police and fire departments up there will be the serious problem of raising the money.

City Attorney Hall reported that last evening he had appeared before the Judiciary Committee in Sacramento and while there Assembly Bill No. 1996 was presented. Mr. Hall stated he did not have a chance to check with the City Council but he spoke privately in opposition to the Bill. Mr. Hall stated: The Bill is so designed so as to preclude the City of Torrance ever having a Superior Court and at the same time also precludes the City of Redondo Beach. I think it is incumbent on the City to oppose the Bill for two reasons (1) Even if Torrance never has the opportunity to get the Superior Court - if the Bill becomes a law they never will; and (2) If we get a Municipal Court it seems to me we are in a lot better shape if Redondo did get a Superior Court, to move the Municipal Court over here.

City Attorney Hall recommended the City of Torrance go on record as opposing that particular Bill.

Mayor Isen moved the City Attorney be authorized to prepare the necessary Resolution opposing Assembly Bill No. 1996. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

City Attorney Hall reported that John Stroh has been sued over a matter arising during his term as Chief of Police. Mr. Hall stated he was going to recommend at the next meeting that the City provide the legal services for him; the reason he was not recommending it tonight was that he wanted to obtain more facts regarding the case.

Councilman Benstead said it had been reported to him that since the last meeting regarding the John Wiley Jones Company there have been 17 violations of escaping gas. He inquired what could be done to protect the lives and property of the residents in that area.

CAACIO

City Attorney Hall stated that if there is an imminent danger the Fire Department could move right in and shut them down. Secondly, if it is not that but an abuse of a license privilege, they are under a limited license privilege, our ordinance provides their license can be revoked after a public hearing, after the facts are presented.

Fire Chief Benner reported they have been down there on several occasions, he was in favor of the company living up to the Agreement or locking their doors.

Councilman Benstead moved the City Attorney be instructed to communicate with the John Wiley Jones Company to comply with their license or steps will be taken. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Blount reported he had received a letter which should have been addressed to the City Council, a communication from Alvan K. Hill tendering his resignation as a member of the Torrance Planning Commission as he no longer resides within the city limits of Torrance.

Councilman Blount moved the resignation be accepted and the usual letter of appreciation forwarded to Mr. Hill. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

Mayor Isen requested the Clerk's office to write the letter.

Councilman Blount stated there is an epidemic of bill boards all over the City of Torrance, particularly at the new Crenshaw Boulevard and 101 Highway, however, North Torrance is just about as bad.

Councilman Blount moved the Engineering Department and the Police Department check these signs to see if permits have been issued in accordance with Ordinance No. 702 and if not to see that they come down. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Schwab reported he had received a post-card in the mail regarding the Torrance Sand & Gravel application for a Variance. He handed it to Deputy City Clerk Hallanger. Mr. Hallanger advised that several of these cards had been received and had been turned over to the Planning Commission for their records.

Councilman Schwab inquired if Mr. Hall had a report to make regarding the Girard case, out on Prairie Avenue.

City Attorney Hall stated he was going to recommend the City negotiate to buy it or condemn it. It is needed for street purposes and the City does not have title. He thought it would be the fair thing to do. Mr. Hall stated there was some question as to whether the City would have to go so far legally as to take it that way. Mr. Hall suggested this land be appraised and the City condemn it.

Mayor Isen requested the City Attorney to give a written report on this matter at the next meeting.

Mr. W. Percy, Torrance Babe Ruth Inc., requested permission to exhibit a 1951 Ford on the streets of Torrance.

Councilman Drale moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

Mr. George Powell reported there were two controversial matters coming before the Planning Commission tomorrow night in which the Council might be interested. They were: Torrance Sand & Gravel Company and General Telephone addition.

Councilman Drale moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 7:45 P.M., Councilman Drale moved to adjourn. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk

By *W. Hallanger*
Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED:

Albert Isen
Mayor of the City of Torrance